

The family name Colclasure, first appeared in America as Kalklieser in the ship Allen's listing of passengers in 1729; all recorded in Philadelphia as list 10-A; 10-B and 10-C; explained in more detail on . From this original spelling "Colclasure" name evolved over the first 75 to 100 years after going through many recorded changes such as Kalkglassr, Kalckglosser, Kalckglasser, Kalkoser, Kalkoeser, Colglazier, etc. By the early 1800's the name came to be known as Colclasure.

One can imagine how burdensome the name must have been for early record keepers in our predominately English speaking society in America. Aside from possible errors made by official record keepers in listing the family name, there is little doubt that some family members contributed to the confusion, errors, and changes in spelling from Kalklieser to Colclasure. Even with all the variations or changes to the Colclasure name it has maintained much of the Germanic sound and character.

The Colclasure spelling is used throughout this family history except when referring to source information or where taken from established records, in which instance the spelling is given as found.

Like many other families, it is unfortunate that the early Colclasures were not good family record keepers. If only such information had been written down for the benefit of later generations, it would have made a very fascinating story today. Even so, logically reasoned calculations about early family members along with that which is known is recorded here as a beginning pool of information to which more can be added or corrections made anytime.

Strong recorded evidence indicates that Alexander Mack, a religious zealot and leader of Baptist ("Dunkers") was the dominant motivating force that influenced many, including our immigrant Colclasures into leaving and fleeing their native homeland for a new and more promising life in America.

One should pause to reflect upon why the first Colclasures in America left their native homeland in Germany. the Mennonites had formed "The Frankfort Land Company" in Germany for the purpose of starting a colony in Pennsylvania and in 1683 and 1698 two groups arrived and settled in Germantown, Pennsylvania.

The Baptist in Germany developed in 1708 as a result of the Treaty of Mestphalia which divided religion among three churches- Roman Catholic, Lutheran and Calvinistic Reformed. Alexander Mack, a wealthy merchant of Shreisheim on the Bergstrasse, was their leader and teacher. It was under his leadership that 2 groups of Baptist migrated in 1719 and 1729 from Germany and settled in the Germantown Community.

On September 11, 1729 John Hendrick Kalklieser, his wife, Agnis, and their 4 children, Jacob, Emanuel, Christopher and Maria arrived at the colonial port of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. they boarded the English ship "Allen" (referred to as "Mack's Refugee Ship") with James Craigs as Ship Master and sailed from Rotterdam by way of England to America. On September 15, 1729 the ship's passenger list # 10A was presented at the courthouse in Philadelphia as required for entry into the colonial records according to the existing minutes of the Colonial Council at that time. Two other lists, #10B and #10C were also required for other purposes but the #10-A list is considered to be the most complete and authentic. Men, women and children were listed separately.

Of the 126 passengers aboard the Allen in 1729, 59 were from the Palatines (separate Principalities and Dukedoms). The John Hendrick Kalklieser family were among the 59 Palatines and were from the town of Frankenthal, south of Mornas on the west side of the Rhine River in the Alsace-Lorraine region where he is believed to have been born in 1678.

It is a noteworthy fact that Alexander Mack is listed first among the passengers on the ship, in list 10-A with his sons Jonnes, Felte, and Alexander II next in line. Fifth on the list was John Hendrick Kalklieser followed by his 3 sons Jacob and Emanuel with Christopher listed as 22 among the men. The wives and the daughter of John Hendrick, Maria, are listed among women passengers. From this it is logical to assume that a close bond of friendship existed between the Mack and Kalklieser families, giving further cause to believe Alexander Mack exercised considerable influence over the Kalklieser family as well as over most of the other Palatine Passengers on board this ship.

The lack of religious freedom and fear of persecution for religious belief was without doubt the main reason for their immigration to America. Another reason was the constant threat of military impressment, where in that day men were grabbed off the streets and byways against their will and thrown into the army against their will without civil recourse, to serve as rented-out soldiers to other countries as so called "mercenaries" to fill the dwindling coffers of the more or less independent Germanic principalities and dukedoms. Of course, there were the alluring hopes and dreams of a better life in America with abundant financial opportunities not found in Europe.

In 1734 John Hendrick Kalklieser owned 42 acres of land in Germantown.

Alexander Mack died in 1734 and John H. Kalklieser succeeded him as leader of the Germantown Brethren but because of divisions within their religious community some of them decided to join a similar group in Ephrata, Pennsylvania in 1738.

At the Ephrata Cloister Johann Heinrich Kalkglasser was known as "Brother Joel" and his birth date is given as 1678 and death date as December 29, 1748. It is pointed out these may be spiritual dates and not calendar dates.

"Die Alt Schwester" died in 1759 and it is believed that she was the wife of J. H. Kalkglasser. Both died at Ephrata Cloister and were buried in "God's Acre".

The will of Johann Heinrich Kalkglasser was probated on Oct. 20, 1740 and in it he named his sons Jacob and Emanuell. Later, on April 25, 1749 his wife Agnis's will was probated and in it she named their 4 children-Jacob, Emanuell, Christopher and Mary Magdalena